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The Tuskegee Airmen

The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of primarily African American military pilots and airmen who fought in World War II. They formed the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Forces. The name also applies to the navigators, bombardiers, mechanics, instructors, crew chiefs, nurses, cooks, and other support personnel.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first Black military aviators in the U.S. Army Air Corps, a precursor of the U.S. Air Force. They flew more than 15,000

individual sorties in Europe and North Africa during World War II, earning over 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses. Their impressive performance helped encourage the eventual integration of the U.S. armed forces.

The 99th Pursuit Squadron, later the 99th Fighter Squadron, was the first Black flying squadron and the first to deploy overseas. The 332nd Fighter Group, which included the 100th, 301st, and 302nd Fighter Squadrons, was the first Black flying group.

The Tuskegee Airmen were known for their excellent combat record and were awarded three Distinguished Unit Citations. They were educated

at the Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Alabama.